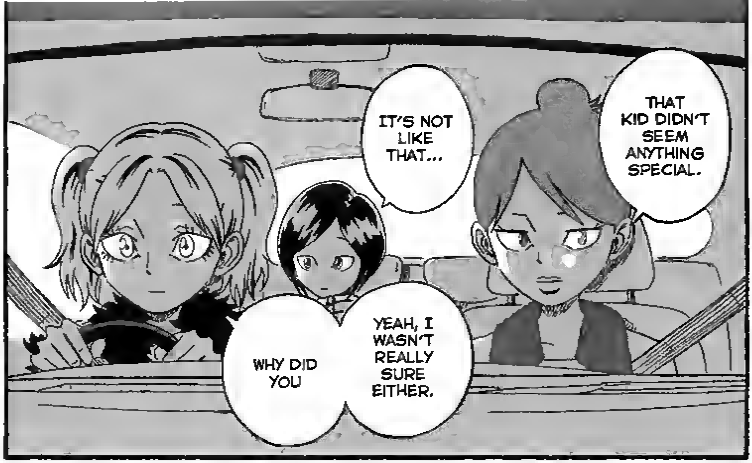
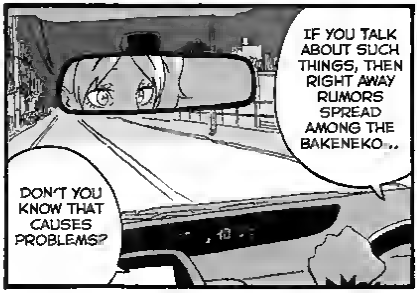
SCENE 20
ENOUGH ALREADY
SNIFF
WHAT THE HECK IS AN 'ASSEMBLY OF BAKENEKOS' ...?
EVERY NOW AND THEN THEY GATHER FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO THEIR SACRED PLACE, SAGA.
I HAVEN'T ATTENDED RECENTLY, THOUGH
HMPH...
SFX: WIND BLOWING
...ARE THEY REALLY
COMING HERE TO PICK YOU UP?
EH!?
AH, HERE THEY COME.
IN OTHER WORDS EVEN IF I'M NOT GOING, IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR US TO WAIT TOGETHER?
A HYBRID CAR...!?
IT'S NOT WHAT I EXPECTED.
WELL, IT'S FOR HUMAN-CAT HYBRIDS.
IS THERE!?
A BAKE-NEKO'S RIDE. NO WAY...
.....
NO VIO-LATING OF COPY-RIGHTS!!
NO, NO, NOT THAT!!

SCANLATION BY RPAPO

WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN HUMAN FORM IN AGES!!
OH WOW~~~ OOHHH WOWWW!!
NO WAY!!
SO IT HAS BUT, YOU STILL LOOK YOUNG AND UNCHANGED!!
64
YES, IT'S BEEN SINCE BEFORE THE TOKYO OLYMPICS!!
SFX: LAUGHTER
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN!?
WERE YOU OKAY!?
ALMOST HALF A CENTURY!!
New brand
YES, IT'S OKAY...
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.
THOUGH I'D BORROW HIM FOR A LITTLE BIT,
?
OH? YOUR MASTER?
YES...

STARE...
WHAT'D I DO?
WHA, WHAT'S UP?
I'LL BE BACK IN THE MORN-ING...
WELL THEN,
.....
?
I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
SHE'S GOING TO MEET UP WITH FRIENDS,
CLOSE
NO, NEVER MIND.
WE'RE LEAVING NOW.
WHAT WAS WITH THAT KID...?
EH?
yet she's not very enthusias-tic


IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
THAT KID DIDN'T SEEM ANYTHING SPECIAL.
WHY DID YOU
YEAH, I WASN'T REALLY SURE EITHER.


IF YOU TALK ABOUT SUCH THINGS, THEN RIGHT AWAY RUMORS SPREAD AMONG THE BAKENEKO...
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT CAUSES PROBLEMS?

TELL HIM YOU ARE A BAKENEKO?
.....

WOULDN'T WE NORMALLY DO THE OPPOSITE?
WHEN WE LIVE WITH PEOPLE FOR A LONG TIME,

Hey, there's a nice Bakeneko in the side-dish shop
IT'S SCARY---!!
YOU CAN'T LET THE BAKENEKO NETWORK HAVE SOMETHING TO LAP UP.

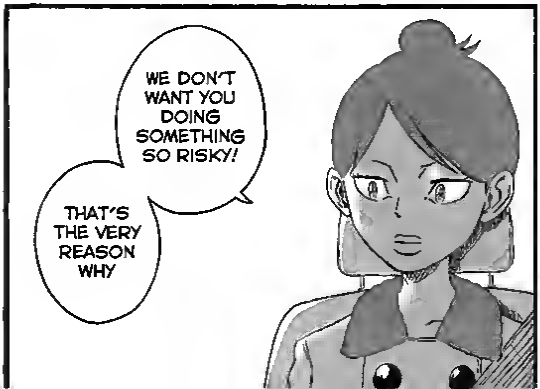
IN A CASE LIKE THAT,
BUT WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME...
...I'VE TOLD AKI-CHAN THAT I'M A BAKENEKO,

WE HIDE THAT WE ARE BAKENEKOS...
AND LIVE AS CATS BEING CARED FOR,
OR AS HUMANS... DO WE NOT?
...THERE'S THAT, AND,

DON'T GET GREEDY.
WHAT YOU'RE SPEAKING OF IS A LIMIT FOR BAKENEKOS.
.....

DON'T WE AVOID STAYING WITH ANYBODY MORE THAN ABOUT TEN YEARS SO THEY WON'T SUSPECT WE DON'T AGE...?
WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S NOT A GOOD THING FOR IT TO GET AROUND THAT THERE'S A BAKENEKO.
IT'S TROUBLE-SOME FOR OTHER BAKENEKOS TOO...
OF, OF COURSE...


WE DON'T WANT YOU DOING SOMETHING SO RISKY!
THAT'S THE VERY REASON WHY

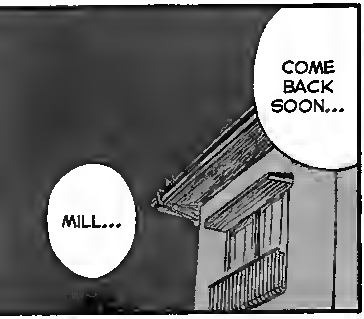
ONE MUST BE CAREFUL...
NO, NO,

YOU HAVEN'T MET HIM? WELL, WE HAVEN'T EITHER...
THOUGH YOU MEET HIM THE FIRST TIME YOU GET A WRITTEN INVITATION...
THE PERSON WHO SUMMONED ME, "MATSU-SAN",
WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS HE?
YOU'RE BEING SUMMONED LIKE THIS...
AH... THAT REMINDS ME,
HE'S REALLY SOME-THING... ISN'T HE?
EH...?
YEP... DIFFERENT FROM WHAT ONE IMAGINES.
ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS,
A THOU-SAND YEARS!? THEN SUCH AS US—
YES, YOUNG GIRLS, BURSTING WITH ENERGY!!
TEHAHAHA
.....
As a human?
As a cat?
He's been at the top of Japan's bakeneko world, controlling it for many years.
They say he's a great demon who's been living quietly for a thousand years—
GWAHAHAHA

MATSU -SAN WILL SEPARATE
YOU AND YOUR YOUNG MASTER.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
IT MAY BE THAT
...THAT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME.
WHEN I RETURN HOME,
THERE WILL BE SOME-BODY WAITING FOR ME...
A TEXT LIKE THIS TO NAKA-GOSHI -SAN...
HMM... SHALL I SEND

SOME-
THING'S
BOTHER-
ING ME.
THINGS
HAVE BEEN
STRANGE
SINCE I
CAME BACK
HERE.

HMM...


COME
BACK
SOON...
MILL...

Thinking
back on
it,
...WOULD
YOU COME
WITH ME?
Did she want
me to come
with her...?

YEP, AND IT'S QUITE THE GATHERING, ISN'T IT?
HERE, AFTER SO LONG!
WE'VE ARRIVED...
WELL THEN...
THE SAGA SHRINE.
Catnip Sake
THE IDLE TONGUE
IDOM
Kotatsu Seating
IT LOOKS LIKE ONE BIG FESTIVAL OF PEOPLE AND CATS.
The other day I found this incredible claw sharpener
WELL, BAKENEKOS LOVE TO HANG AROUND TOGETHER.
IT'S OUTSIDE THE NORM.
FUFU, IF YOUR MASTER SAW THIS HE'D MIGHT BE SURPRISED.

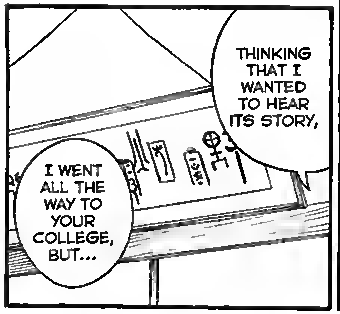
WOW, WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A LONG TIME!! NO WAY
YOU'VE GROWN SO BIG!! HOW OLD ARE YOU!?
AH, I'VE REACHED 86.
We're giving you a New Year's gift!
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU WERE JUST A KID!!
...I SUPPOSE IT LOOKS LIKE NEW YEARS.
THOUGH THEY'RE MAKING A BIT OF A MISTAKE
WHAT? HEY!!
EVERY HERE AND THERE YOU SEE SOMEBODY YOU'VE MISSED...
Are you a Saga native?
Bakeneko Oil
?
WHERE IS MATSU -SAN?
Sorry
WELL,
MATSU -SAN IS WAITING!!
HEY, LET'S GO ALREADY!!
AH, THAT REMINDS ME...
AHAH
HE'S FURTHER UP,
OF COURSE.

DOOM
THE STAIRS HERE...
ARE REALLY HARD FOR OLD FOLKS...
WHY ARE THEY MEETING HERE...?
THAT'S RIGHT... THIS WAS TO BE IN THE KAGA SHRINE...
BUT,
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. IT'S BEEN HERE SINCE THE OLD DAYS.
SAYS HE'S TIRED, SO HURRY UP AND GET THERE...
MATSU -SAN...
.....
.....
RRINGG BEINGG (BLACK PHONE)
HUH? MY PHONE...
WELL, TAKING OUR TIME AND RESTING AS NEEDED...
WHAT IS IT?
UNDERSTOOD... YES, WELL THEN...
HELLO... WHO IS IT? EEH... WE'VE COME TO THE BASE. EH...?

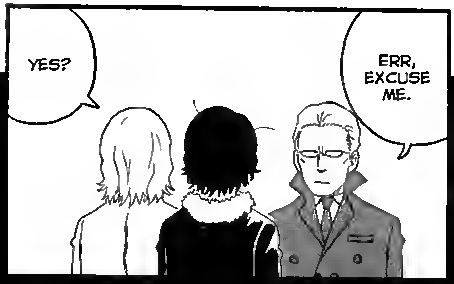
ZEPHYR~
ZEPHYR~
HANG IN THERE!!
I CAN'T!! I CAN'T ALREADY!!
I... I WANT SOME CHONDROITIN!!
MY KNEES ARE MOCKING ME!!
HAAAA!!
OH, YOU'RE HERE.
SHAKE TREMBLE
MADE IT!!
WE DID IT!!
LOOK, IT WON'T BE LONG!! WE'RE HALFWAY!!
STILL HALF WAY!?
GO INSIDE.
AT ONCE THEN, MATSU-SAN IS WAITING.
SOEJIMA MILL...

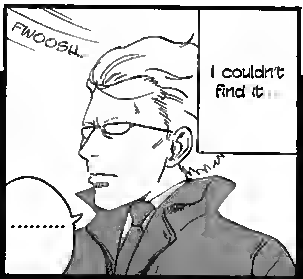
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
I'LL BE BACK.
.....
ARE YOU OKAY...?
MATSU-SAN, SOEJIMA MILL HAS COME.
YES... YOU MAY ENTER.
OH.
?

EEEH ...!?
YOU'RE YOUNG !!
WELL,
I AM THE SAME AS YOU. I CHANGED WHEN I REACHED TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.
Though I have an old face
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, ALL OF US BAKENEKOS AROUND THAT AGE...
YOU CAME.
OGI YOUKAN!!
YOUR SUGAR IS DEPLETED. HERE, A PRODUCT OF OGI...
YOU'RE PROBABLY TIRED FROM THE STEPS.
SEE HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/Y%CS%8DKAN
ONCE YOU'VE SETTLED DOWN,
I'M SORRY, BUT
MILL-SAN ...
OOH, MINE TOO!
YES, IT'S MY FAVORITE.
IS GREEN TEA FLAVOR OKAY?
CHEW, CHEW
...ERR...


THINKING THAT I WANTED TO HEAR ITS STORY,
I WENT ALL THE WAY TO YOUR COLLEGE, BUT...

COUGH! COUGH!
!!
THERE'S A WILD BAKENEKO ABOUT.
IT SEEMS THAT AROUND WHERE YOU LIVE THERE'S ONE MORE WHO HAS BECOME ABLE TO CHANGE...
He's speaking of Pink Nose.


YES?
ERR, EXCUSE ME.


FWOOSH...
I couldn't find it...
.....

In other words Where have all of you seen it?
DON'T YOU KNOW?
HOO...

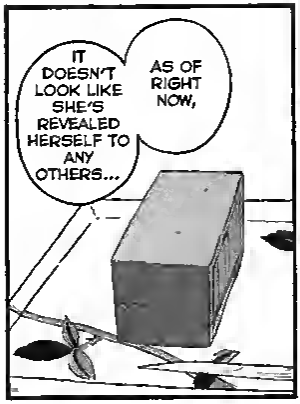
I'VE HEARD THAT IN THIS COLLEGE THERE IS AN UNUSUAL PINK-NOSED BLACK CAT,
SO I AM SEARCHING FOR IT, BUT...

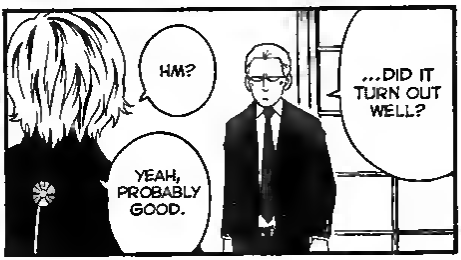
How you say, Hastings, zis is a cute chat is it not noir?
IN A COUNTRY FAR, FAR AWAY...
YES, SHE WAS TAKEN AWAY BY A MAN WITH AN EGG SHAPED HEAD...
EH!?
SEE HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/HERCULE_POIROT
!!
WHERE!?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. RUMOR HAS IT...
LET'S SEE...
We ought to text Hans-chan
But afterwards,
IT WAS NO PROBLEM.
THANK YOU...
NO, NO.
BUT...
ENOUGH ALREADY.
THAT CHILD,
AND YOU TOO!
.....
ON TELEVISION, WHEN A MAN IS THINKING OF LYING, HE LOOKS UP AND TO THE SIDE.
I SAW THAT SORT OF FACE.
HEY.
SEE PREVIOUS PAGE

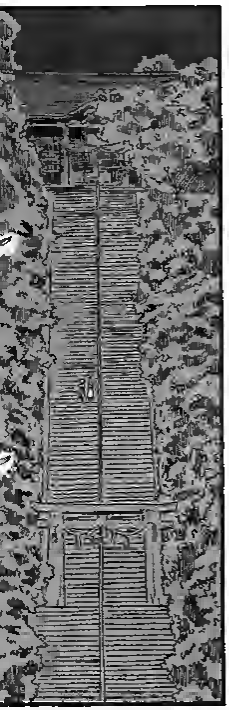
YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART.
WOULD YOU PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE?
WE SHOULD LEAVE IT ALONE.
PROBABLY BECAME A BAKENEKO IN NO TIME AT ALL.
TRUE, BUT...
YUUZOU.
GULP
HM?
TH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
CLOSE
.....
BECAUSE IF THAT CHILD'S NATURAL SHAPE
AS A HUMAN WERE REVEALED, IT WOULD SURELY BE A PROBLEM.
NO, YUUZOU WAS IMPOLITE.
WELL, PLEASE UNDERSTAND HIS FEELINGS TOO.

NOW THAT'S IT'S JUST YOU AND ME HERE,
WOULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME?
INDEED, I'VE NOT BEEN LOOKING FORWARD
TO SUCH A TURN OF EVENTS EITHER.
WHY HAVE YOU
REVEALED YOURSELF TO A HUMAN?
.....
AH!!

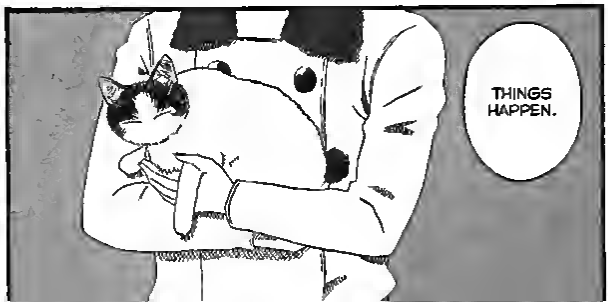
YO... YOU...
HOW'D IT TURN OUT?
OKAY, MORE OR LESS...
AH...
I'M SO GLAD!!
I WASN'T REPROVED.
WHAT A RELIEF ...
YES, LET'S DO...
WELL THEN, LET'S GO HOME!!
HUH?
HEY, JUST TAKE IT EASY.
WE'RE GOING HOME.
TO THAT KID'S PLACE...
...WHAT'S THIS? SHE LOOKED TIRED, BUT...
YES, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE DRAINING, EMOTIONALLY.


AS OF RIGHT NOW,
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S REVEALED HERSELF TO ANY OTHERS...

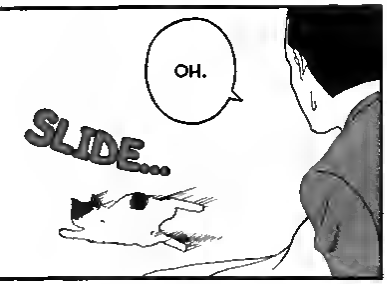

HM?
...DID IT TURN OUT WELL?
YEAH, PROBABLY GOOD.

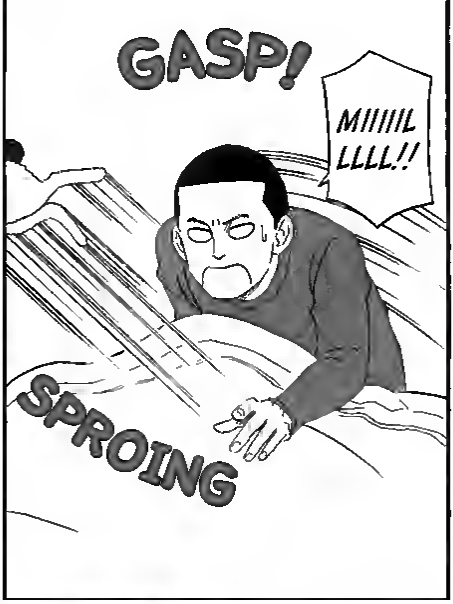


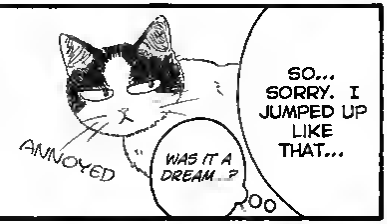
STILL... IT'S PROBABLY NOT GOOD FOR HER TO BE LEFT ALONE ENTIRELY.
SOONER OR LATER,


THINGS HAPPEN.

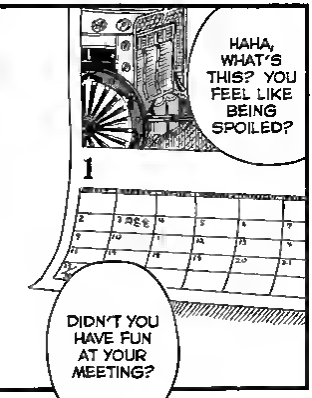
EH!?
I AM INDEBTED TO YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE UP TO NOW.
I'VE THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT...
...AKI-CHAN...
...WHAT? MILL... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
!?
FROM NOW ON, I WILL BE LIVING WITH MY FELLOW BAKENEKOS.
FARE-WELL.
HEY.. ARE YOU JOKING!?
HE, HEY..
MILL...
WAI...


OH.
SLIDE...

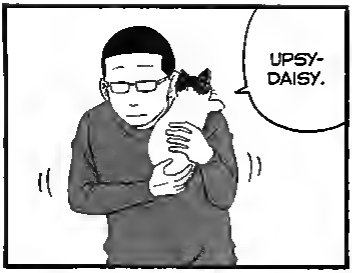

GASP!
MIIIIIL LLLL!!
SPROING

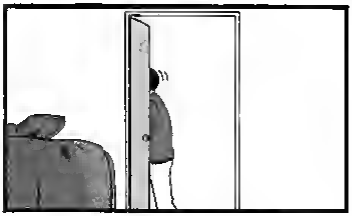

ANNOYED
WAS IT A DREAM...?
SO... SORRY. I JUMPED UP LIKE THAT...

HM?
UUH, IT'S MORNING?


HAHA, WHAT'S THIS? YOU FEEL LIKE BEING SPOILED?
1
DIDN'T YOU HAVE FUN AT YOUR MEETING?

STROKE


UPSY-DAISY.



WELCOME BACK.
SHALL I GET YOU SOME-THING TO EAT...?

I'm Home, Aki-chan.
I brought back some souvenir Youkan.
P.S.
I forgot to say it earlier:
Happy New Year. And may this year be a good one too.
--Mill